



CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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April 2, 2010

Alice A. Huffman
President

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street SW, Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Gwen Moore
1st Vice President

RE: DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN

Kenneth L. Nelson
2nd Vice President

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Naomi Rainey
3rd Vice President

The California State NAACP represents more than 70 local branches across California. Our goal is to ensure social, political and economic equality for all minority citizens throughout the state and to promote policies that have a positive effect on these communities.

Ida M. Johnson
Secretary

African Americans and other minorities are just beginning to join the technological revolution sparked by the growth of the Internet. Over the past few years, broadband adoption by African Americans has increased by more than 100 percent; and, African Americans are now more likely to use a mobile handheld device to go online to the Internet than the general population.

Olivia Verrett
Assistant Secretary

But the digital divide that still exists for African Americans and Latinos in particular is one of the challenges of our time. I applaud your efforts to address this issue through the development of a National Broadband Plan that seeks to deal with issues of availability and adoption within these communities. The widespread availability of affordable cell phones and pricing packages have provided both a practical and economic incentive for low income and minority communities to engage in new technology. This phenomenon is due in part to the huge investment made by private companies that have updated these networks to provide easy access and consumer-friendly technology for our communities.

Carolyn Veal-Hunter
Treasurer

I urge you to consider the importance of private investment as you finalize your work on a National Broadband Plan.

Alan Carroll
Assistant Treasurer

Equally important are your deliberations regarding regulation of the Internet and so called Net Neutrality rules. Any regulations that result in a pull back in investment and less access for minority communities will put these recent gains at risk. Private investment is crucial to address the issues of equal access and adoption, and should be at the forefront when you consider any changes.

Waudier Rucker-Hughes
Area Director Southeast

Thank you for your recent efforts to address this important issue. I hope you will consider the needs of the African American community and the impact your decisions will have on all minority communities.

Ronald Hasson
Area Director Southwest

Sincerely,

Alice A. Huffman
President

Delois Edwards
Area Director North

LaJuana Bivens
Area Director Central

Dan Daniels, Sr.
Area Director Coastal

Christopher Jackson
Area Director West

cc: Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker | Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps | Commissioner Robert M. McDowell